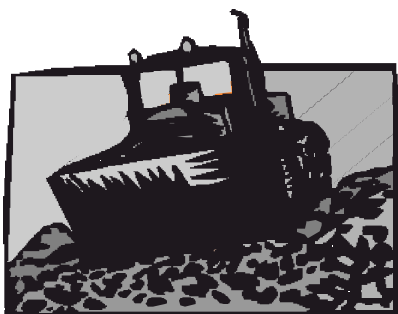




This fact sheet:

- **explains soil cleanup progress.**
- **describes work planned for the Little Scioto River.**
- **lists sources for further information.**



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Office of Public Affairs
Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590

Illinois Indiana
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U.S. EPA Continues Cleanup At Baker Wood Creosoting Site Marion, Ohio

July 1999

INTRODUCTION

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) is continuing its cleanup at the Baker Wood Creosoting Site in Marion, Ohio. The cleanup included the excavation and off-site disposal of creosote-contaminated waste and heavily contaminated soil. Test “trenching” to identify other potential contaminated areas and a determination of the extent of sediment contamination from past creosote disposal practices was also done.

CLEANUP SUMMARY

From early April through mid-May, U.S. EPA excavated and treated 2,742 cubic yards (3,565 tons) of creosote-contaminated soil. A total of 133 truckloads were transported to a licensed landfill near Detroit. As soil was being trucked away, U.S. EPA backfilled, graded and seeded the excavated areas to restore the property to its more natural, original appearance.

While test pits and trench excavations continued throughout the 60-acre site, four additional smaller areas of contamination were found along the eastern edge of the property. Because of this discovery, about 1,500 cubic yards (2,000 tons) of contaminated soil is being removed.

Air along the edges of the site will continue to be monitored as excavation is completed to ensure that volatile organic compounds [(VOCs), chemicals that evaporate readily into the air] are not moving toward homes and businesses.

Through June, U.S. EPA sampled the Little Scioto River and North Rockswale Ditch to learn how much creosote contamination exists in the sediment that may be affecting water quality. Samples were inspected and processed on site at Ohio EPA’s mobile lab trailer. Analysis was done by an independent laboratory. Information collected will enable U.S. EPA to quickly assess sediment contamination and begin to develop a potential cleanup plan.

The cleanup included the excavation and off-site disposal of creosote-contaminated waste and heavily contaminated soil.

NEXT STEPS

U.S. EPA is completing “treatability studies” this month on the waste currently stored on site. A treatability study entails sending samples to a lab for tests to determine if the waste can be treated, or cleaned, using certain proven technologies. The technology that U.S. EPA is considering is called “bioremediation.” This involves using naturally occurring bacteria to break down the waste into non-hazardous compounds. The bacteria uses the compounds in the waste as a food source which transforms harmful contaminants into harmless substances. If selected, that process will be implemented in August and September. Then, the material will be ready for on-site disposal or shipment to a licensed, disposal facility. Once this has been completed, the highest levels of contamination will have been removed.

Periodic assessment work in the Little Scioto River may be done within the next few months to address sediment areas that may require additional investigation. This work will give U.S. EPA a better idea of where creosote contamination is located. U.S. EPA will use this information to start developing a potential cleanup plan for lower-level contamination in the river and ditch. This plan could include options to remove, treat and/or dispose of contaminated sediment.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions about the Baker Wood Creosoting Site or would like to be added to the site mailing list, please contact:

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As reports are developed in relation to the cleanup, they will be placed in an Administrative Record file at the Marion Public Library, 445 East Church Street, Marion. The administrative record file will contain detailed information upon which cleanup decisions will be based.

A copy of this fact sheet and others can be downloaded from the EPA Region 5 website at <http://www.epa.gov/region5>.



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